

Marina and Boating Safety

COVID-19
ROAD TO RECOVERY



Dear Residents,

Being within minutes of the ocean, bays and waterways is one reason why Hempstead Town is a special place to live. Many of our residents venture out onto boats, canoes and kayaks, especially during the spring and summer months. While boating in the Town of Hempstead is a popular leisure and recreational activity, it is a way of life for many of our residents!

Unfortunately, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are currently living in a “new normal.” In addition to the regular safety tips and regulations that boaters must follow at our marinas and waterways, the Town of Hempstead is also issuing a set of new safety protocols.

These new rules, based on New York State’s social distancing requirements, are set to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in an effort to protect the safety of you, your families, friends and others around you who are utilizing our marinas and waterways. To serve as a reminder, most of the information contained in this brochure will also be displayed on signs at our town marinas.

I ask that you join me in taking these precautions seriously. By doing so, we can help protect each other while also ensuring that our marinas and waterways remain open for the residents of America’s largest township.

I wish you all a safe, healthy and enjoyable boating season!

Sincerely,

Donald X. Clavin, Jr.
Supervisor

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Supervisor
Council Members

Dorothy L. Goosby • Bruce A. Blakeman • Anthony P. D’Esposito
Dennis Dunne, Sr. • Thomas E. Muscarella • Christopher Carini

Kate Murray
Town Clerk

Jeanine C. Driscoll
Receiver of Taxes

As our boating, kayaking, and canoeing communities are more active during summer months, it is important to keep these safety precautions and practices in mind while venturing out on the waterways.

- Before heading out, be sure to check that required boat safety equipment is up to date with U.S. Coast Guard regulations.
- Try to stay inland and close to home in the event an emergency arises.
- Be sure to wear approved life jackets at all times.
- Follow all traditional safe boating and U.S. Coast Guard rules, and Harbormaster guidance. Boaters should always be alert, follow the rules of the nautical road and maintain a safe distance between vessels.
- Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in boating accidents. Never operate a vessel while impaired or intoxicated by drugs or alcohol.
- Under Brianna’s Law, all operators of motorized vessels must take a safe boating course and earn a safe boating certificate by 2025. As of January 1st, all motorboat operators born on or after January 1, 1993 must complete a safety course to operate a motorboat this season. Visit parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/safety-courses.aspx or hempsteadny.gov/tourism/boating/boating-instruction for a list of safe boating courses.
- File a float plan. Let someone know the details of your trip before you depart in case of an emergency.
- Consider weather conditions and water temperature when planning an outing.



Marinas and boatyards are open for personal use as long as strict social distancing and sanitization protocols are followed. Here are steps you can take to be a responsible boater:

- Completely clean and sanitize surfaces on your boat, equipment and touch points before boarding, during use and after each use.
- Limit passengers to members of your immediate household.
- Wear gloves and masks or face coverings, and keep a distance of six feet or more from others outside your household while on the dock.
- Wait for the vessel in front of you to finish fueling before entering fuel dock.
- Disinfect by washing your hands or using hand sanitizer after touching items such as fuel pumps, hose reels, or pump out facilities.
- When using a boat launch, please wait inside your vehicle until it is your turn to use the boat ramp. Depart the ramp area as quickly as possible when launching or retrieving your boat.
- If your boat is kept on dry dock, call ahead to request that your boat be launched and ready upon your arrival.
- Practice social distancing on the water. Stay clear of tie ups or mooring congregations. If beaching your boat, keep a safe distance from other boaters.

For further assistance, please contact the Town of Hempstead Bay Constables at (516) 801-5608 or (516) 801-5609.

Please be considerate. Dispose of used masks and gloves properly.